

"adopt a class" program, and a weekly career corner on the Long Neck Elementary School's televised news program. Lastly, the school improvement committee, which consists of staff, parents, and community members, identifies and allocates resources to enhance achievement for all students.

At Long Neck Elementary, students are not only challenged academically. They are also expected to demonstrate model behavior. Good citizenship is reinforced through a character education program where students are honored monthly with certificates and medals for demonstrating the six pillars of good character which promotes making positive choices and becoming a productive member of society.

No school could achieve the gains and progress Long Neck Elementary has met without having a staff that believes every child can learn and who are committed to providing students opportunities to reach their fullest potential. Long Neck Elementary has implemented professional learning communities where teachers work closely together, both within and across grade levels, to promote learning. All members of the staff assist students in improving their academic performances, increasing the likelihood that they will find success through their school years and go on to become productive and active members of society. This is done through after school programs, differentiated instruction, and extra support programs. In addition, instructional staff members participate in numerous learning-focused professional development activities, which enable them to provide students with instructional strategies that are sound and research-based.

Tirelessness of staff and parents at Long Neck Elementary have made possible real progress in closing that school's achievement gap. Along with the National Blue Ribbon Schools Award, the school also earned "Superior" rating from the State of Delaware in 2003, 2004, and 2005. Long Neck Elementary School is a school that demonstrates that all students can learn. The school's selection as a national blue ribbon school is a testament to their hard work and dedication.

Delaware is a small State, but we are building a growing record of achievement in public school education. Helping lead the way are the students at Long Neck Elementary School, along with their teachers and parents. Collectively, they are truly an inspiration to other schools and communities in Delaware and throughout our Nation.●

TRIBUTE TO JACK GHERTY OF LAND O'LAKES

● Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to recognize an individual who has made a significant positive difference in U.S. agriculture, agribusiness, rural communities and cooperative enterprise.

That individual is Land O'Lakes' President and Chief Executive Officer Jack Gherty, retiring after a 35-year career with the cooperative and 16 years as its President and CEO.

During his tenure as CEO, Land O'Lakes was transformed from a regional to a national farmer-owned business and membership organization—giving producers a powerful presence in the marketplace and, from my experience, an equally powerful and positive voice in the policy arena.

Jack Gherty's role in Land O'Lakes' transformation comes as no surprise, for agriculture, rural communities and cooperatives have always been close to his heart.

Gherty grew up on his family's western Wisconsin dairy and livestock farm, in a close-knit rural community, where the local cooperative was at the center of agribusiness activity.

He learned the importance of diligence and teamwork. He learned to value family, community and the land. And, he learned the important role farmer-owned businesses can play in helping preserve the integrity of family-based agriculture and rural communities.

Jack carried these lessons with him when he left the farm in the mid-1960s and earned business and law degrees from the University of Wisconsin. They were also part of his work in the late 1960s as a VISTA volunteer on the tough, poverty-stricken south side of Chicago.

In 1970, Jack joined the Land O'Lakes law department. Over the next several years, he held a number of executive positions within the cooperative. In 1989, the board selected him to serve as Land O'Lakes' President and CEO.

In this leadership role, Gherty continued to be driven by a strong set of personal values. He combined this with the belief that the most critical role a CEO must play is defining organizational culture, and he immediately began working with the board and his leadership team to set the foundation for Land O'Lakes' future—the organization's vision, mission and values.

Over the past 16 years, Gherty's vision, mission and values have served Land O'Lakes and its members well. Not only has Land O'Lakes built business success while remaining true to its cooperative principles, the company has gained a reputation for uncompromising standards of ethics and integrity and has established a strong record of corporate social responsibility.

As a Minnesotan, I am proud to count Land O'Lakes as a Minnesota-based company. I am proud of its ethics. I admire its contributions to the success of family-based agriculture and producer-owned agribusiness. I share its rural and family values. I applaud its commitment to community.

I am equally proud of Jack Gherty's record as its leader and of the values that have shaped his career—and, in turn, the Land O'Lakes of today.

A few years ago, Jack Gherty traveled here to Washington D.C. to speak at the 35th Anniversary celebration for VISTA. At that time he said, "The most successful and satisfied people are not those who are out to make an impression, but rather those who are out to make a difference."

Jack Gherty has made an impression by making a difference, and I am pleased to share his achievements with you today.●

AMMON, IDAHO

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, this month, the city of Ammon, ID celebrates a very special birthday: it turned 100 on October 10. A century ago, this thriving town of over 10,000 people was covered with sagebrush that was so tall and thick, as one historian put it "one could ride for miles on horseback without being seen." Today, the vestiges of those stalwart Mormon settlers can still be seen in this community that champions family, faith and hard work.

The steady growth and measured additions of elements that make a city a city: church, school, electricity, railroad, well, park and public works reflect the wisdom of a well-organized, solid community of citizens. I have lived close to Ammon my entire life; it is a fine community and a great place for families. Those Idahoans who call it home can be proud of their fine city and its 100 years of prosperity.●

BURLINGTON, A CORNERSTONE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

● Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, one of the greatest challenges we face—not just in Iowa but all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our towns. This is about economics, but it is also about our culture and identity. After all, you won't find the heart and soul of Iowa at Wal-Mart or Home Depot out in the strip malls. No, the heart and soul of Iowa is in our family farms, and on Main Street in communities all across my State. That is why we need to be as generous as possible—and creative as possible—in keeping our downtowns not just alive but thriving.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am involved in funding many hundreds of programs every year. But the Main Street Iowa program—providing challenge grants to revitalize downtown buildings across my State—is in a class by itself. It is smart. It is effective. And it touches communities and people in very concrete ways.

For example, the town of Burlington, IA, is making an effort to improve the aesthetics and function of its downtown area. So many of our rural communities are fading away, but with the assistance of Federal funding through a Main Street grant, Burlington is revitalizing its downtown. Downtown Burlington has been waiting for a grocery